IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim ~~10~~ 1 (Currently Amended): A method for communicating between a monitored device and a monitoring device, comprising the steps of:

determining information to be transmitted by the monitoring device to the monitored device, the monitored device being selected from the group consisting of a printer, a facsimile machine, a facsimile server, a scanner, a copier, a metering system, and a vending machine, the information including a request for a status of the monitored device determined using sensors within the monitored device; and

transmitting the information through electronic mail from the monitoring device to the monitored device using an Internet e-mail protocol.

Claim 11 (Canceled).

Claim ~~12~~ 3 (Original): A method according to claim ~~68~~ 2, wherein the step of transmitting the information from the monitoring device comprises:

transmitting the information to the monitored device which is a business office device.

Claim ~~13~~ 4 (Original): A method according to claim ~~12~~ 3, wherein the step of transmitting the information to the monitoring device comprises:

transmitting the information to one of a copier, a facsimile machine, and a printer.

Claim ~~14~~ 5 (Original): A method according to claim ~~68~~ 2, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the transmitted information by the monitored device; and

transmitting, through the Internet, an Internet electronic mail message from the monitored device to the monitoring device containing status information of the monitored device, in response to the transmitted information from the monitoring device.

Claim ~~15~~ 6 (Original): A method according to claim ~~68~~ 2, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the information from the monitoring device to a plurality of monitored devices including the monitored device.

Claim ~~16~~ 18 (Currently Amended): A method for communicating between a machine and a monitoring device, comprising the steps of:

determining status information using at least one of a mechanical and electrical sensor; and

transmitting an electronic mail message using an Internet e-mail protocol from the machine to the monitoring device containing the status information, the machine being selected from the group consisting of a printer, a facsimile machine, a facsimile server, a scanner, a copier, a metering system, and a vending machine.

Claim ~~17~~ 20 (Original): A method according to claim ~~69~~ 19, further comprising the step of:

analyzing the status information by the machine,

wherein the status information is transmitted in the Internet electronic mail message from the machine when the status information is analyzed and determined to be within a standard operating range.

Claim ~~18~~ 21 (Original): A method according to claim ~~17~~ 20, further comprising the steps of:

determining status information which is outside of normal operating parameters exists in the machine using at least one of the mechanical and electrical sensor; and

transmitting a connection-mode message from the machine to the monitoring device containing the status information which is outside of the normal operating parameters.

Claim ~~19~~ 22 (Original):A method according to claim ~~17~~ 20, wherein the step of transmitting from the machine to the monitoring device comprises:

transmitting, through the Internet, the Internet electronic mail message from the machine which is a device selected from the group consisting of a copier, a facsimile machine, and a printer, to the monitoring device.

Claims 20-35 (Canceled).

Claim ~~36~~ 29 (Currently Amended): A system for communicating between a monitored device and a monitoring device, comprising:

means for determining information to be transmitted by the monitoring device to the monitored device, the monitored device, being selected from the group consisting of a printer, a facsimile machine, a facsimile server, a scanner, a copier, a metering system, and a vending

machine, the information including a request for a status of the monitored device determined using sensors within the monitored device; and

a transmitter of the monitoring device which transmits the information through electronic mail from the monitoring device to the monitored device using an Internet e-mail protocol.

Claim 37 (Canceled).

Claim ~~38~~ 31 (Original): A system according to claim ~~70,~~ 30 wherein the monitored device is a business office device.

Claim ~~39~~ 32 (Original): A system according to claim ~~38,~~ 31 wherein the business office device is one of a copier, a facsimile machine, and a printer.

Claim ~~40~~ 33 (Original): A system according to claim ~~70,~~ 30 wherein the monitored device further comprises:

a receiver which receives the transmitted information; and

a transmitter which transmits, through the Internet, an Internet electronic mail message from the monitored device to the monitoring device containing status information of the monitored device, in response to the transmitted information from the monitoring device.

Claim ~~41~~ 34 (Original): A system according to claim ~~70,~~ 30 wherein the transmitter of the monitoring device comprises:

a transmitter which transmits the information from the monitoring device to a plurality of monitored devices including the monitored device.

Claim ~~42~~ 46 (Currently Amended): A system for communicating between a machine and a monitoring device, comprising:

sensors within the machine which sense status information to be transmitted to the monitoring device, the machine being selected from the group consisting of a printer, a facsimile machine, a facsimile server, a scanner, a copier, a metering system, and a vending machine; and

a transmitter of the machine which transmits the status information using an electronic mail message from the machine to the monitoring device using an Internet e-mail protocol.

Claim ~~43~~ 48 (Original): A system according to claim ~~71~~ 47, further comprising:

means for analyzing the status information by the machine,

wherein the status information is transmitted using the transmitter of the machine when the status information is analyzed and determined to be within a standard operating range.

Claim ~~44~~ 49 (Original): A system according to claim ~~43~~ 48, further comprising:

means for determining status information which is outside of normal operating parameters exists in the machine using said sensors; and

a transmitter configured to transmit a connection-mode message from the machine to the monitoring device containing the status information which is outside of the normal operating parameters.

✓ Claims 45-51 (Canceled).

Claim ~~52~~ 7 (Original): A method according to claim ~~68~~ 2, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message which includes an identifier followed by an "@" symbol followed by a domain name.

Claim ~~53~~ 8 (Original): A method according to claim ~~52~~ 7, wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message which includes a description of an encoding type of the Internet electronic mail message.

Claim ~~54~~ 12 (Original): A method according to claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting said electronic mail as an Internet electronic mail message through a firewall of a network which includes the monitored device.

Claim ~~55~~ 13 (Original): A method according to claim ~~54~~ 12, wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

transmitting said Internet electronic mail message which includes an identifier followed by an "@" symbol followed by a domain name.

Claim ~~56~~ 14 (Original): A method according to claim ~~55~~ 13, wherein the transmitting step further comprises:

transmitting said Internet electronic mail message which includes a description of an encoding type of the Internet electronic mail message.

35 30
Claim ~~57~~ (Original): A system according to claim ~~70~~, wherein the transmitter comprises:

a device configured to transmit said Internet electronic mail message to include an identifier followed by an "@" symbol followed by a domain name.

36 35
Claim ~~58~~ (Original): A system according to claim ~~57~~, wherein the transmitter further comprises:

a device configured to transmit said Internet electronic mail message to include a description of an encoding type of the Internet electronic mail message.

37 30
Claim ~~59~~ (Original): A system according to claim ~~70~~, wherein the transmitter comprises:

a device configured to transmit said Internet electronic mail message through a firewall of a network which includes the monitored device.

38 37
Claim ~~60~~ (Original): A system according to claim ~~59~~, wherein the transmitter further comprises:

a device configured to transmit said Internet electronic mail message to include an identifier followed by an "@" symbol followed by a domain name.

39 38
Claim ~~61~~ (Original): A system according to claim ~~60~~, wherein the transmitter further comprises:

a device configured to transmit said Internet electronic mail message to include a description of an encoding type of the Internet electronic mail message.

Claims 62-67 (Canceled).

Claim ~~68~~ 2 (Original): A method according to claim ~~10,~~ 1 wherein said step of transmitting comprises:

transmitting the information through an Internet electronic mail message over the Internet from the monitoring device to the monitored device.

Claim ~~69~~ 19 (Original): A method according to claim ~~16,~~ 18 wherein said step of transmitting comprises:

transmitting the information using an Internet electronic mail message through the Internet from the machine to the monitoring device.

Claim ~~70~~ 30 (Original): A system according to claim ~~36,~~ 29 wherein the transmitter comprises:

a device configured to transmit the electronic mail message and information, using the Internet, as Internet electronic mail from the monitoring device to the monitored device.

Claim ~~71~~ 47 (Original): A system according to claim ~~42,~~ 46 wherein the transmitter comprises:

a device configured to transmit the information and electronic mail message, using the Internet, as an Internet electronic mail message from the monitoring device to the monitored device.

Claim ~~72~~ 9 (Original): A method according to claim ~~68,~~ 2 wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message through a Local Area Network ("LAN").

Claim ~~73~~ 10 (Original): A method according to claim ~~72~~ 9, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~74~~ 15 (Original): A method according to claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~75~~ 11 (Original): A method according to claim ~~68~~ 2, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~76~~ 23 (Original): A method according to claim ~~69~~ 19, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message through a Local Area Network ("LAN").

Claim ~~77~~ 24 (Original): A method according to claim ~~76~~ 23, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~78~~ 76 (Original): A method according to claim ~~16~~ 18, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~79~~ 25 (Original): A method according to claim ~~69~~ 19, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~80~~ 40 (Original): A system according to claim ~~70~~ 30, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message through a Local Area Network ("LAN").

Claim ~~81~~ 41 (Original): A system according to claim ~~80~~ 40, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~82~~ 43 (Original): A system according to claim ~~36~~ 29, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~83~~ 42 (Original): A system according to claim ~~70~~ 30, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~84~~ 50 (Original): A system according to claim ~~71~~ 47, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message through a Local Area Network ("LAN").

Claim ~~85~~ 51 (Original): A system according to claim ~~84~~ 50, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~86~~ 53 (Original): A system according to claim ~~42~~ 40, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~87~~ 52 (Original): A system according to claim ~~71~~ 47, wherein the transmitter comprises:

means for transmitting the Internet electronic mail message without using a telephone line.

Claim ~~88~~ 16 (New): A method according to claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein:

the monitored device is a printer.

17 1
Claim ~~89~~ (New): A method according to claim ~~10~~, wherein:

the monitored device is a copier.

27 18
Claim ~~90~~ (New): A method according to claim ~~16~~, wherein:

the machine is a printer.

28 18
Claim ~~91~~ (New): A method according to claim ~~16~~, wherein:

the machine is a copier.

44 29
Claim ~~92~~ (New): A method according to claim ~~36~~, wherein:

the monitored device is a printer.

45 29
Claim ~~93~~ (New): A method according to claim ~~36~~, wherein:

the monitored device is a copier.

54 40
Claim ~~94~~ (New): A method according to claim ~~42~~, wherein:

the machine is a printer.

55 40
Claim ~~95~~ (New): A method according to claim ~~42~~, wherein:

the machine is a copier.